United Nations A/AC.105/755

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 2000

Original: English/Spanish

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Activities of Member States for young people

Note by the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. In the report of its forty-third session,[1] the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the agreement of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that Member States and their relevant national institutions should be invited to report to the Subcommittee on the activities that they had carried out for young people (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 16).

2. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee, in a note verbale dated 26 July 2000, the Secretary-General requested Governments to submit any information on the above question by 31 October 2000 so that it could be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its next session. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Member States by 24 November 2000. Information received subsequent to that date will be included in an addendum to the present document.

II. Replies received from Member States

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

1. Space sciences

1. In honour of World Space Week 2000, the Hall of Cosmonauts at the Air Museum was remodelled and provided the venue for informal lectures and debates on astronomy and space sciences specially targeted at children and adolescents.

2. Distance learning

2. In 2000, a campaign was started to distribute televisions and video recorders to all primary and secondary schools in Cuba as part of a major effort to spread education and culture to all corners of the country.

3. Special television programming was organized with the aim of extending general knowledge and culture to the population at large, with various courses being included on a number of subjects, with five weekly slots at two different times of day.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20).

Peru

[Original: Spanish]

The national institutions concerned with space technology regularly organize practical pre-professional courses on an annual basis for young university students as part of their training support. Support is also provided to space researchers under the programme conducted by the National Council for Science and Technology.

Philippines

[Original: English]

1. Philippine space activities for young people are conducted by two agencies.

1. National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

2. The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) conducts regular lectures, training courses, symposiums and exhibits in schools, universities and government and private offices. These activities are handled by highly trained NAMRIA resource speakers.

3. NAMRIA researchers participate in international symposiums such as the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing. The Philippines was the host country for the 1998 conference, which was spearheaded by the National Remote Sensing Center of NAMRIA.

2. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

4. The Astronomy Research and Development Section of the Atmospheric, Geophysical and Space Sciences Branch of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) conducts stargazing and telescoping sessions for students of various schools located in different parts of the country in order to promote astronomy and space science. It also organizes the Astro Olympiad, a contest in astronomy designed specifically for high school and college students, which aims to enhance the awareness of the general public, in particular of youth, in the science of astronomy.

5. Since the agency has only one planetarium, which is located in Quezon City on the island of Luzon, a mobile planetarium was acquired in order to bring astronomy to the countryside. PAGASA will also complete during 2001 the distribution of its newly acquired four Meade LX-200 telescopes to four local regional centres, which will undoubtedly enhance the knowledge of youth in astronomy and space science and, it is hoped, arouse their interest.

6. Lastly, in 2001 the Philippines will complete the installation of a 45-cm computer-based astronomical telescope, donated by the Government of Japan, which will be used mainly for observation and documentation of astronomical objects and phenomena. The data and information collected by means of the telescope will form part of the database of a network of small astronomical observatories in the east and south-east Asian region for possible collaborative research activities that will include the Philippines.

Table

Some of the space activities conducted by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority for young people

Activity	*Coordinator/sponsor*	*Theme/objective*	*Description*
Children's Science Interactive Workshop	Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the University of the Philippines National Institute for Geological Sciences, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Provincial Government of Bohol and the Local Government of Panglao	The science clubber, the Earth and the universe: "One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind"	Discussions on rock identification, volcanism, plate tectonics, planets and heavenly bodies (planetary motion, comets, planet properties and features, open forum), stargazing and games.
Astroquiz; Astro Olympiad	PAGASA		A quiz contest among high school students.
Film about space travel	Manila Science High School	Space travel	Film screening for third- and fourth-year physics students.
Astronomy Club (meets at the University of the Philippines—Diliman)	La Salle Greenhills, Assumption School		
Astronomy-related activities	Philippine Astronomical Society	To foster widespread interest in the study of astronomy	Observations/stargazing; annual conventions; National Astronomy Week.